

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

----- 008974

R 141100Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 120

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6386

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: INABA IMBROGLIO CONTINUES

REF: TOKYO 6257

SUMMARY: AFTER TWO FULL DAYS OF COMMITTEE APPEARANCES BY JUSTICE MINISTER INABA AND PRIME MINISTER MIKI, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESOLUTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION CONTROVERSY EITHER FOR OR AGAINST INABA.

RESULT HAS BEEN CONTINUING STANDSTILL OF DIET AND INCREASED PRESSURE ON MIKI TO SACK INABA OR PROCEED IN DIET WITHOUT OPPOSITION PARTIES. BOTH OPTIONS ARE UNDESIRABLE -- AND POTENTIALLY DEBILITATING --FROM MIKI VIEWPOINT. LIKELIHOOD, THEREFORE, IS THAT MIKI WILL PURSUE PRESENT COMPROMISE SEARCH A WHILE LONGER. END SUMMARY

1. JUSTICE MINISTER OSAMU INABA, ACCOMPANIED BY PRIME MINISTER MIKI, SPENT SEVERAL HOURS ANSWERING HOSTILE OPPOSITION PARTY QUESTIONS IN UPPER HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MAY 13 AND LOWER HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MAY 14. OPPOSITION AIM IS TO FORCE CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS RESIGNATION FOR OPENLY SUGGESTING CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, A POLITICAL TABOO IN JAPAN. ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION DID NOT SUCCEED, NEITHER WAS RULING LDP ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER SATISFACTORY PACKAGE OF AGREED CABINET POSITION, PUBLIC RETRACTIONS AND APOLOGIES

TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF DIET. AS RESULT, DIET  
PLENARIES AND ALL COMMITTEES (EXCEPT JUDICIARY COMMITTEES) IN BOTH  
HOUSES REMAIN AT COMPLETE  
STANDSTILL WITH ONLY TEN DAYS REMAINING OF SCHEDULED REGULAR  
DIET SESSION.

2. WITH EACH PASSING DAY PRESSURE ON MIKI TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION  
IN RESOLVING INABA IMPASSE INCREASES. NOT ONLY ARE MIKI'S SIX  
"IMPORTANT" LEGISLATIVE ITEMS (FIVE WITHOUT JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
TREATY) BEING HELD UP, BUT SO ARE OTHER LESS DRAMATIC BILLS SUCH  
AS ONE TO RAISE PRICE OF RICE WINE AND TOBACCO ESSENTIAL TO  
REDUCE ANTICIPATED GOJ BUDGET DEFICIT. NOR IS LDP ABLE TO  
INTRODUCE BILL TO EXTEND DIET SESSION BEYOND MAY 25 ON  
WHICH LDP IS GENERALLY AGREED. (DIFFERENCES WITHIN PARTY REMAIN  
OVER LENGTH OF EXTENSION, HOWEVER, WITH THOSE WHO EXPECT RATHER  
MEAGER DIET RESULTS ARGUING FOR BRIEFER TWO WEEK EXTENSION AS  
OPPOSED TO OPTIMISTS, INCLUDING PRIMIN, WHO WANT FOUR WEEKS OR SO.)

3. COMMENT: AS RESULT OF INABA'S INDISCRETION AND CONTINUING  
OBSTINACY, MIKI IS NOW IN DIFFICULT POSITION. WITH PRESSURE  
BUILDING FOR DIET DELIBERATIONS, OPPOSITION IS UNLIKELY TO  
GIVE UP ITS DOGGED PURSUIT OF INABA OR INTRODUCE NON-  
CONFIDENCE MOTION WHICH LDP COULD QUICKLY VOTE DOWN. ON OTHER  
HAND, IF MIKI CHOOSES TO FIRE INABA, IT ALMOST CERTAIN TO CREATE  
PROBLEMS WITH PRECISELY THOSE FACTIONS WHICH PROVIDE MIKI'S  
SUPPORT. SHIINA AND FUKUDA FACTION MEMBERS TEND TO RIGHT  
AND WIDELY SHARE INABA'S CONSTITUTIONAL VIEWS; LDP SEC GEN  
NAKASONE, TOO, WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT INABA AS MOST SENIOR  
MEMBER OF NAKASONE FACTION. THERE WOULD ALSO BE INABA  
REPLACEMENT PROBLEMS. IF MIKI, HOWEVER, CHOOSES TO TAKE EXTREME,  
BUT NOT UNUSUAL, STEP OF HOLDING DIET SESSIONS WITHOUT OPPOSITION  
PARTIES, DWINDLING CHANCES FOR CONTINUED "DIALOGUE" WITH  
OPPOSITION -- A FIRM MIKI TENET -- WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY  
BE EXTINGUISHED.

4. UPSHOT IS THAT MIKI IS LIKELY TO TRY A WHILE LONGER TO  
FIND ELUSIVE COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO AVOID  
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THESE AWKWARD ALTERNATIVES. PROSPECTS THUS ARE FOR STALLED  
DIET THIS WEEK (MAY 12-16) AND PERHAPS BEYOND.  
HODGSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TOKYO06386  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750169-1029  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaafjp.tel  
**Line Count:** 101  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971008  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PINT, JA, (INABA, OSAMU), (MIKI, TAKEO)  
**To:** STATE INFO HONG KONG  
PEKING  
SEOUL  
TAIPEI  
CINCPAC HONOLU HAWAII

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006